

Amendments to the Specification

Please make the following amendments to the specification. Material to be inserted in replacement paragraphs or sections is in underline, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The other end 40 of tube assembly 34 is adapted to provide fluid 18 that is drawn from compartment 16 through exit port 30 and tube assembly 34 to a user's mouth. A mouthpiece 42 is typically coupled with end 40 of tube assembly 34, such that tube assembly 34 is in fluid communication with mouthpiece 42. Mouthpiece 42 may be removable from tube assembly 34 or alternatively may be integrated with tube assembly 34. For example, mouthpiece 42 may simply be the end 40 of tube assembly 34 distal output port 30, the output of the subsequently described quick-connect assembly, an output from a mouthpiece or other structure mounted on the subsequently described quick-connect assembly, or structure that is removably or permanently attached to end 40. As used herein, components of the hydration system that extend from the reservoir and through which drink fluid drawn from the reservoir through exit port 30 flows may be referred to as being downstream from the reservoir. Accordingly, the exit port and other elements of the hydration system downstream from the reservoir may be referred to as the downstream assembly of the hydration system. However, as disclosed subsequently herein, in some modes of operation drink fluid may flow in the other direction, namely, through exit port 30 and into the reservoir. For example, filtered or unfiltered drink fluid may be pumped

into the reservoir, or the reservoir may be refilled in another manner. For the purpose of simplicity, the use of “upstream” and “downstream” refers to when the reservoir is in an output mode of operation in which fluid is being drawn from the reservoir through exit port 30.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Member 260 also illustrates a projecting guard, or flange, 270 that may be used with any of the female members according to the present disclosure. Guard 270 is adapted to border, or extend at least partially around, surface 119 of the projecting member to reduce the likelihood of unintentional depression of the lock ring to its unlocked configuration. Preferably, guard 270 is sized and/or positioned so that a planar member that is larger than surface 119 cannot urge the lock ring to its unlocked configuration, in which the male member may be selectively removed from the lock ring. Instead, guard 270 preferably requires a user's finger tip or other actuator to be inserted at least partially within a perimeter region defined by the guard. It is within the scope of the disclosure that guard 270 may not extend completely around the perimeter of surface 119 and/or that the guard may be comprised of two or more discontinuous portions. For example, the guard may include a plurality of projections, or ribs, that project[[ing]] in spaced-apart intervals around the perimeter of surface 119. As another example, the guard may be configured to protect opposing sides of a four sided projecting member while leaving the other two sides at least partially open.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the illustrated embodiment, each mount 322 is adapted to fluidly couple to a different length of tubing, which may in turn couple with a component such as an on/off valve, exit port, mouthpiece, pump, filter, etc. Accordingly, each mount is adapted to respectively define a portion, such as portions 324 and 326, of the fluid conduit 84 established by the quick-connect assembly. Each mount 322 includes an opening 92 through which drink fluid may selectively flow, such as into the male member or out of the male member (depending upon the implementation and configuration of the corresponding quick-connect assembly). The size and shape of the respective fluid conduits may be selected to control the relative percentage of fluid that passes through each conduit. Though shown in Figs. 51 and 52 with two mounts 322, it is within the scope of the present disclosure that three or more mounts may be used. Similarly, the mounts may have different shapes, sizes and/or configurations. Branching mounts may be configured to receive a length of tubing, as shown, or the branching mounts may be configured to directly connect with a corresponding component or otherwise directly integrate with such a component. As ~~the~~ discussed, it is within the scope of the present disclosure that the relative upstream/downstream configuration of the male and female members of a quick-connect assembly may be reversed[[]]. [[it]]It is similarly within the scope of the present disclosure that any of the female members described, illustrated, and/or incorporated herein may be constructed with a plurality of mounts.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 30, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In Figs. 22 and 23, male member 82 is shown integrated with a fitting, or mount, 140 that is sized to receive a bite-actuated mouthpiece 44. Mouthpiece 44 is formed from a deformable material, such as silicone, and includes a neck 142 that is stretched around fitting 140. It is within the scope of this disclosure that fitting 140 may be integrated with female member 80 instead of male member 82. Similarly, fitting 140 and mouthpiece 44 may have other configurations without departing from the scope of the disclosure.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In Fig. 35, another assembly is shown with an integrated gas mask fitting 160, which is generally indicated at 170. Fitting 170 is configured for use with AVONTM™ brand gas masks and includes a housing 172, an insert 174 and a seal member (such as one or more O-rings) 176, which are secured within the housing by a retainer 178. Also shown in Fig. 35 is a coupling member 180 with an output port 182 that is adapted to connect to the fluid-intake tube of a gas mask. Fittings 160 may also include a valve assembly that is adapted to automatically stop the flow of fluid therethrough when the fitting is not coupled to a gas mask's fluid-intake tube. In Figs. 36 and 37, assembly 70 is shown including both a gas mask fitting and an on/off valve 76 to provide further examples of a quick-connect assembly with more ~~than~~than one integrated component.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 46, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As discussed, an example of a suitable material 222 for forming reservoir 412 is butyl rubber. When such a material is used, it may be desirable to coat the inner surface of the compartment and/or form the butyl rubber over another material to prevent the taste of the drink fluid from being negatively affected by exposure to the butyl rubber. Reservoirs that are formed from sheets or layers of materials such as resins, plastics, rubbers, and the like need to be sealed at least around the perimeter of the compartment so that the compartment will define a water-tight enclosure for drink fluid and therefore only permit drink fluid to enter or exit the reservoir through defined inlet and exit ports. Butyl rubber typically requires either a mechanical sealant, such as a metal compression fitting or clamp, or a vulcanization (heating) process, to seal layers ~~[[or]]~~of butyl rubber together.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 51, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An illustrative, non-exclusive example of a hydration system according to the present disclosure is a personal hydration system that includes at least (1) a reservoir having a body portion with an internal compartment adapted to receive a volume of drink fluid and a selectively sealable fill port having an opening through which drink fluid may be added to or removed from the compartment; (2) an elongate downstream assembly extending in fluid communication from the reservoir to define a fluid conduit through which drink fluid may flow from the compartment for drinking by a user, wherein the downstream assembly comprises a plurality of fluidly interconnected components selected from the group consisting of a length of

hollow drink tubing through which drink fluid may flow, an on/off valve adapted to selectively obstruct the fluid conduit and prevent drink fluid from flowing therethrough, a mouthpiece adapted to dispense drink fluid to a user's mouth, a bite-actuated mouthpiece adapted to dispense drink fluid to a user's mouth upon receipt of user-applied compressive forces to the mouthpiece, an exit port adapted to fluidly interconnect the downstream assembly and the reservoir to permit drink fluid to be drawn from the compartment into the downstream assembly, and a gas mask fitting adapted to fluidly interconnect the quick-connect assembly with an intake tube of a gas mask, and further wherein the downstream assembly further includes at least one quick-connect assembly adapted to fluidly interconnect at least two of the plurality of components, wherein the quick-connect assembly includes at least (3) a male coupling member having a shaft that includes a tip and which defines at least a portion of the fluid conduit, wherein the male coupling member includes a region distal the tip with a port through which drink fluid may selectively flow into or out of the assembled quick-connect assembly; (4) a female coupling member having a body with an opening sized to receive at least the tip of the male coupling member, wherein the opening is in fluid communication with a cavity that extends through the female coupling member to a region distal the opening that includes a port through which drink fluid may selectively flow into or out of the assembled quick-connect assembly; and (5) a resilient lock ring coupled to the female coupling member and adapted to selectively engage and prevent removal of the shaft of the male coupling member when the shaft of the male coupling member is at least partially inserted into the passage, wherein the lock ring defines a passage and is selectively deformable between an unlocked orientation, in which the tip of the male coupling member may pass through the passage, and a locked orientation, in which the tip of the male

coupling member may not pass through the passage, and further wherein the lock ring is biased to the locked configuration.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 53, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

As another non-exclusive example, the present disclosure is also directed to a quick-connect kit for forming an assembled quick-connect assembly that defines a fluid conduit through which drink fluid may flow, with the kit including (1) at least one male coupling member having a shaft that includes a tip and which defines at least a portion of a fluid conduit, wherein the male coupling member includes a region distal the tip with a port through which drink fluid may selectively flow into or out of the assembled quick-connect assembly, and further wherein the region includes a mount; (2) at least one [[a]] female coupling member having a body with an opening sized to receive at least the tip of a male coupling member, wherein the opening is in fluid communication with a cavity that extends through the female coupling member to a region distal the opening that includes a port through which drink fluid may selectively flow into or out of the assembled quick-connect assembly, wherein the region includes a mount; and (3) a lock member adapted to releasably and fluidly interconnect a male coupling member and a female coupling member, wherein the lock member is selectively configured between a locked configuration, in which the lock member is configured to retain the male and the female coupling members in fluid interconnection with each other, and an unlocked configuration, in which the lock member is configured to permit the male coupling member to be selectively removed from and inserted into the passage of the female coupling member; with the mount of a first one of the male and the female coupling members adapted to be fluidly

interconnected with a tube assembly of a hydration system upstream from a second one of the male and the female coupling members, and with the kit including at least a pair of the second one of the male and the female coupling members, with the mount of one of the second one of the male and the female coupling members adapted to fluidly interconnect the assembly with at least one of a length of drink tubing and a mouthpiece and the mount of the other of the second one of the male and the female coupling members adapted to fluidly interconnect the assembly with an intake tube of a gas mask, and furthermore upon configuring the lock member to its unlocked configuration, the second ones of the male and the female coupling members may be selectively and interchangeably fluidly interconnected with the first one of the male and the female coupling members.